

Appl. No. : **10/609,015**
Filed : **June 27, 2003**

REMARKS

Claims 5, 6, 8-15, 25-29, and 31-47 are pending in this application. Claims 5, 6, 8, 9, 11, 13, 14, 25-28, and 31-33 have been amended. New Claims 34-47 have been added. Claim 1 has been canceled in the present amendment. Claims 2-4, 7, 16-24, and 30 had been canceled in previous amendments. Support for the amendments and is found in the specification and claims as filed.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

Claims 1, 5-6, 8, 13, and 25-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as obvious over U.S. Publication No. US 2002/0034611 A1 (hereinafter "Masuko *et al.*"). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claim 1 has been canceled without prejudice, solely to facilitate issuance of the claims indicated to be allowable. Claims 5-6, 8, 13, and 25-28 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 11, which has been redrafted into independent form. Claim 29 depends from amended Claim 28. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 9-10 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Masuko *et al.* in view of U.S. Publication No. US 2003/0160026 A1 (hereinafter "Klein *et al.*"). Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claim 9 has been amended to depend from allowable Claim 11, which has been redrafted into independent form. Claim 10 depends from amended Claim 9. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Claim Rejection - 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

Claims 31-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as obvious over Masuko *et al.* in view of Klein *et al.* Although Applicants do not necessarily agree with the propriety of the rejection, Claims 31-33 have been amended to depend from allowable Claim 11, which has been

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redrafted into independent form. Applicants reserve the ability to pursue the canceled claims, or similar claims, in one or more continuing patent applications. The rejection is therefore moot.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 11-12 and 14-15 have been objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Claims 11 and 14 have been rewritten in independent form. Claims 5, 6, 8-15, 25-29, and 31-43 depend from amended Claim 11, either directly or through an intervening claim. Claims 34-47 depend from amended Claim 14, either directly or through an intervening claim. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the objection to Claims 11-12 and 14-15 be withdrawn.

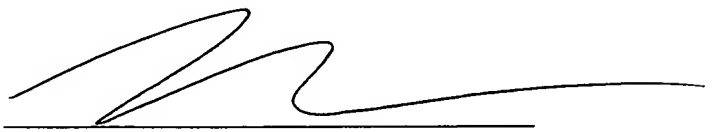
Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance. Should the Examiner have any remaining concerns that might prevent the prompt allowance of the application, the Examiner is respectfully invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

KNOBBE, MARTENS, OLSON & BEAR, LLP

Dated: 10/30/06

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AMEND

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